

Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa." *The Annals of Iowa* 59 (2000), 326-326.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.10391>

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In recounting the story of Fort Robinson, Thomas R. Buecker, curator of the fort's museum, focuses on these events by presenting a well-researched and straightforward narrative of military operations conducted from the post. This is a conventional approach that runs counter to recent scholarly trends connecting western army posts with regional economic development, but with his emphasis on Fort Robinson as a military base, Buecker enhances our understanding of Native American resistance on the northern Great Plains and the army's role in the history of the American West. It is a valuable contribution.

Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa, by Jane Jurgens. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 1999. 128 pp. Illustrations. \$18.99 paper.

REVIEWED BY MARY E. NOBLE, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

As the series title, *Images of America*, implies, this book is primarily a collection of photographs and other illustrations the author has compiled from her own and other private collections as well as State Historical Society of Iowa collections. The result is a historical survey of this Turkey River town, known for its association with mill owner and Iowa governor William Larrabee. Jane Jurgens has drawn on earlier histories and residents' recollections for a brief introduction and nine chapters, each consisting of one or two paragraphs of text and several pages of pictures. Captions, which lack provenance, range from a few words to a substantial paragraph. The images of buildings, monuments, townsfolk, and such date from the 1860s to the 1990s, with most from the 1890s to the 1920s. Newspaper clippings, postcards, and other materials, such as the program for the 1903 Lincoln monument dedication, are also reproduced. The Larrabees are given a chapter, but their influence on the unique aspects of Clermont's commerce and culture also figures prominently in other chapters on local industries, institutions, and events.

The book is intended for "residents and history enthusiasts" (back cover) rather than scholars. It has no index or references beyond the acknowledgments. Major historical threads are briefly but well stated. The images are appealing in their variety, and although their quality is variable, most are at least moderately clear. Multiple views of some subjects make for interesting comparisons, but many are undated or approximately dated. Evident errors include what is probably a post-1900 postcard view dated "c. 1880" (14) and the caption for a Larrabee daughter's portrait (44) giving the same date for her marriage as the death date on her gravestone (94).

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